

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

WAR BALLOONS.

From the N. Y. Times. The battle in the air, which was reported the other day by both English and Belgian newspapers, seemed almost too incredible for belief, yet, as it has not been contradicted, there is probably truth in it. Our readers may remember that this is one of the incidents referred to a short time previously, in these columns, as having been prefigured in romance, but at that time not yet realized. From present appearances, however, it seems likely that such conflicts may become common affairs. The numerous aerial attempts and adventures of both French and Prussians in the existing war bid fair to add materially to the stock of useful knowledge on such subjects, and to lead to a more general use of balloons for military purposes hereafter; and the greater the number of belligerent balloons the greater the probability of their collision. A vastly increased use of balloons during future wars appears, in fact, to be seriously contemplated by the English Government, which has recently been carrying on quite an extensive series of aeronautic experiments at Woolwich. The results of some of these essays have proved, according to the London press, very interesting. It is said as regards captive balloons—which are the most practically useful for purposes of reconnaissance—that a height of six hundred feet at a horizontal distance of 3600 feet is best to enable the observers to secure the widest expanse of view. To be lower gives insufficient range to be higher entails atmospheric obscurities; and to be nearer is too hazardous. Again, it is said that a captive balloon attains stability, and remains, like a kite, at rest, "when the horizontal resultant of the ascensional force and the tension of the cord are equal to the force of the wind." The machine being steady, a fresh device is brought into play—this has been actually done, we understand, at Woolwich—to utilize science for the prosecution of war. Eight cameras and lenses have been arranged about the car at several distances, and a complete view of the surrounding country has thus been photographed for transmission to the authorities below. Photographers will understand how this may be done under such circumstances to advantage, by a consideration of the fact that the refraction of the visual rays is the same for all objects coming under the same angle, while in a horizontal ground-view it is very irregular. The balloon view affords, then, a uniform refraction of circle, and a more exact relative position of the object. But, although the advantages of the surrounding country is important, to convey instant intelligence to friends below may be more so. The old plan of doing this was as follows:—A message was written on a tube of white pasteboard shaped like a cartridge and open at both ends. To this a bullet was attached, and the apparatus, being slipped over a line, ran easily to its attached end at the earth. The new method is much more elegant and scientific. It consists in the use of telegraphy and was to some extent practised in our own war. By the new system for the field adopted by the British War Office, it is claimed that lines of telegraph can be carried through the air from the earth to a balloon several miles distant. The wire can be paid out, it is said, as fast as the balloon travels, so that, even if a captive balloon breaks or soars away, communication can be kept up with it for at least six miles. Or, again, two or more balloons can be sent up and kept in telegraphic communication with each other by means of aerial and land lines, so that telegraphic operations can be effected from the balloons to headquarters, and thence to the base of operations. These experiments, it will be remembered, were in some degree made on the Potomac, but with only partial and unsatisfactory results. The reports from Woolwich tell a far more hopeful story. They declare that the trials made there have unmistakably shown that the advantages, in reconnaissance, of this application of balloons are incalculable. "It enabled the observing officers to survey an area of thirty square miles, not vaguely, but sharply pictured before them." And "it was found that a great deal of great skill can be attained in judging of the relative position of masses of troops, while minute details can be subsequently obtained at leisure by field-glasses, as to the position of mountain gorges, passes, limits of woods, course of streams," etc. If the accounts before us are not too warmly drawn, the problem of effectually employing balloons for military purposes will be solved by this happy combination of photography and telegraph.

There is no doubt, at all events, that the English authorities are earnestly engaged in this investigation, and the English journals express sanguine hopes of the trials in progress at Woolwich. Two officers, Captains Brackenbury and Noble, have been despatched thence to the respective seats of war, to pick up and compare information, and it is whispered that war balloons are already being manufactured in the Royal Arsenal, and that officers of the Royal Engineers, from generals downward, are to be trained in their use. The difficulties experienced by French and Prussians in the use of military balloons are attributed to the fact that they have few or no officers of their own accustomed to their use, a disadvantage which none of the great powers are likely in future to overlook, or fail to provide for.

HOW TO BE POLITICIANS. From the New Orleans Republican. Labor societies are good enough in their place. Two men never met and compared their thoughts on a good subject without benefit to both; and in the societies where laborers assemble to discuss the interests of their profession, there is a constant incentive to thought and mental progress. All such societies meet with our cheerful support. We should be pleased to know that each and every class of laboring men in New Orleans had its regular organization, and that the members were sufficiently numerous and independent to support a quiet and comfortable hall with a good library in it. Suppose the carpenters and builders, who are very numerous and thrifty in New Orleans, had a meeting-room where they could assemble in the evening to discuss the interests of the business, and where, when a question of measurement of supports, of braces, of beams, or of other matter, came up, the difficulty could be settled by turning to the latest authority on the subject, either among the older heads of the profession or in the newest book on the subject. Hundreds of young mechanics would have a place to spend their evenings at with profit to themselves. Mar-

ried men, too, who now go to the corner grocery and pass the time by taking a sociable drink, would save their money and improve their leisure hours in the company of intelligent craftsmen or of readable books and papers. There are five or ten thousand carpenters in this city, and they no doubt have some kind of an association, but we have never heard that they had a library, or even a meeting room. Suppose, too, that the shoemakers had such a place, where they could meet and discuss the wants and interests of their profession, instead of being called together, as they were on Thursday night, to be lectured by Smallwood and Johnson into a kind of fever about matters which they cannot rectify except in a given way. Every mechanical profession that has a responsible standing in New Orleans ought to have a reading-room and library. The members who are too domestic to spend their evenings at such places could nevertheless make use of the library as a resort to meet their friends on occasion, and there also they could rely upon finding such books and such information as every man sometimes wants in the course of his week's work. Besides, it would afford a place for the interchange of thought and suggestion, which never comes amiss in this world of activity and intelligence. Fathers who are raising sons to be mechanics, and employers who are instructing apprentices, would have a place at which they could trust their charges, satisfied that nothing immoral would be seen, and nothing intoxicating would be sold. How many inventors might New Orleans turn out, and how many fortunes might her children amass, if they only had the appliances to study scientific mechanics as it is printed and illustrated in the organs of the trade! It is now almost impossible to find in the city a reliable or recent book on any of the subjects that engage the attention of our artisans. When mechanics of any class assemble to discuss politics as a branch of their profession, they make a mistake. And a sad one, at that, for themselves, for they are only playing a game which some shrewd old politician is watching to take advantage of. Politics is greatly misunderstood by the great mass of people. Almost every man believes he is fit to be a politician, and he not only votes himself to be entirely competent to run the State, but he is willing to trust any of his neighbors to do the same thing. This is a great mistake. It is the most serious error into which the otherwise clear-headed people of this country ever fall. Politics is a profession, and in providing for its conduct, society should be more careful than it is in selecting a lawyer, a doctor or a watchmaker, because the politician has to make laws to protect mankind against the unfaithful lawyer, doctor or watchmaker. If all the trades had reading-rooms at which the members attended for their mental improvement, the craftsmen would soon learn that the evils in legislation about which they complain so much do not spring from politics, but from the want of it. A badly mended watch is never reported as the work of a watchmaker, but of a boy, and so it is with good and bad government. Character is the main thing in politics, as it is in every other trade. If a politician is reliable and trustworthy in private life, there is no great danger of his doing much evil in office; but if he is unfaithful in his personal relations, and if he is not a reliable adviser in general matters, there are great and overwhelming objections to his being fastened on the public as a politician. Mechanics ought to do one thing, and that is to forget that they are a political party, and to remember that the benefit of all: and the laborer or the professional man who sets himself up as entitled to enjoy its benefits is just the man to be avoided. He develops selfishness in his egotistic claim, and whether he is a shoemaker, like Mr. Mueller, or whether he is a Democratic mountebank, like Mr. Smallwood, he ought to be discontinued and discouraged. The true science of our popular system is for every man who can not trust one or the other of the great political parties, to make himself conversant with political principles and with the men on both sides, and when the day of election arrives to vote for the best man, satisfied that the interests of society will never be betrayed by good officers. And this is what we recommend to the shoemakers who had their ears tickled by Messrs. Smallwood and Johnson. These two men have an axe to grind, and if they can get the shoemakers to turn the grindstone, it will be so much clear gain. We do not ask their support as a class. We only know them as individual citizens. If our platform suits them, let them support that. It was made in the interest of all, and not for any set of men. It offers protection and support to the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the black and the white. If the shoemakers want more than this, or something special for themselves, they can not get it from us.

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the judge who is to try him, because he believes he is influenced by party leaders who the prisoner has offended. Judge Hackett and Bedford ridiculed the affidavit which the prisoner's counsel presented, but they cannot afford to content themselves with a general denial of its allegations. In spite of the disgustingly offensive manner and tone of the counsel who presented it, which serve to some degree to distract attention from the serious charges against the Recorder, the affidavit leaves on the reader's mind the impression that it is probably true. The corruption of the men and party with whom Recorder Hackett is associated is so notorious that their odium extends to all about them, and it is not difficult to convince men that the Recorder is a most improper person to sit in judgment on this prisoner. It is usual and very natural, we suppose, for prisoners to think they "stand in danger of their lives from the judge on the bench," but in this instance there is reason to think that the state old legal joke thus framed into an affidavit is no joke at all. Aside from these disgusting personal revelations, the trial on Monday revealed the bitterness of the war between the rival Democratic factions; and the majority of those who study the reports will have less hesitation than heretofore in crediting the old assertion that Tammany kills as well as buys its enemies. But this is not the only incident revealing the rapid demoralization of the legal profession in this misgoverned city. The Recorder has recently been carrying on quite an extensive series of aeronautic experiments at Woolwich. The results of some of these essays have proved, according to the London press, very interesting. 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THE ENGLISH INTERVENTION IN FRANCE. From the N. Y. World. The best commentary that can be made upon the rumored intervention of England to secure peace in France—in the present state of our information as to that intervention—comes to us in the statement that a new French loan of fifty millions of dollars has been put upon the London market by one of the most respectable banking-houses of the British capital. The Government of the French republic is not very likely to sign itself out of existence at the moment when it is borrowing money to carry on the great national conflict by virtue of which it exists. The reported terms of the settlement said to be proposed by England are of such a nature that if they were to be accepted by the negotiators, they would be tantamount to a termination of the international war between France and Germany only at the expense of an ultimate civil war in the former country, if not of an ultimate revolution in the latter country also. The chief interest of these rumors to the world at large—supposing them not to prefigure, as it is more than doubtful whether they do prefigure, any serious diplomatic action—consists in the evidence which they afford of increasing difficulties in the way of Prussian occupation of France. Had the bombardment of Paris been presently practicable, or had the republic organized for defence no better means of self-defence than the empire bequeathed to her, we should have heard nothing of English intervention at Versailles and Berlin. All that these reports now set forth as a proper basis for peace could have been attained by Prussia without much practical trouble, immediately upon the fall of Sedan, had Prussia then been willing, as she now seems to be, to listen to the voice either of moderation in her own councils or of foreign powers counselling forbearance. The Regency of the Empress, which it is now averred that Prussia is anxious to restore, was then an existing fact. The city of Paris, now found to be a formidable fortress, was then supposed to be at the mercy of the invaders. Whatever may be the upshot of the pending negotiations, it will hardly be thought, we suspect, by the great body of intelligent observers throughout Christendom, that it was worth the while of Bismarck and King William to inflict two months of horrible devastation and destruction upon the two foremost nations of Europe for the purpose of restoring an empire, overthrown by German valor, against the will of a great capital made impregnable and a great people called under arms by the downfall of that empire.

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INLAND INSURANCES. For goods by river, canal, lake and land carriage all parts of the Union. YR goods by river, canal, lake and land carriage all parts of the Union. Merchandise generally; on Stores, Dwellings, Houses, etc.

ASSETS OF THE COMPANY. November 1, 1869. \$500,000 United States Five Per Cent. Loan, 100 shares \$100,000 100,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan (awful money) \$107,000 80,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan, 1861 \$60,000 800,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan (exempt from tax) \$12,000 100,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. Loan \$20,000 50,000 Pennsylvania Railroad First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds \$400 20,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Second Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds \$2,620 25,000 Western Pennsylvania Railroad Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds (Pennsylvania Railroad guaranteed) \$20,000 20,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent. Loan \$15,000 50,000 State of Tennessee Six Per Cent. Loan \$4,700 15,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Company 200 shares stock \$14,000 8,000 North Pennsylvania Railroad Company 100 shares \$3,000 10,000 Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Company \$1,000 \$46,900 Loans on Bond and Mortgage, fuel liens on City Properties \$24,900 \$1,201,900

MARKET VALUE, \$1,300,970.00. Real Estate, Cost, \$1,315,629.97. Bills Receivable for Insurances made \$28,000.00. Balance due to Agencies—Accrued Interest, and other debts due the Company \$6,979.95. Stock, Scrip, etc., of Sundry Corporations, \$6,740.00. Cash in Bank \$165,813.38. Cash in Drawer \$72.24. \$1,802,100.04

DIRECTORS: Samuel E. Stokes, John C. Davis, Edmund A. Soder, Theophilus Paulding, James Traquair, Henry C. Dallett, Jr., James C. Hand, William L. Ludvig, Joseph H. Soal, Hugh Craig, John D. Taylor, George W. Bernston, William C. Houston.

ROBERT POSTRO, John Kessler, Jr., Edward B. Oran, Charles Stokes, John W. Everman, Mortimer Busby, CHARLES RICHARDSON, President. WILLIAM L. BURNARD, Secretary.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. INCORPORATED 1868. CHARTER PERPETUAL. CAPITAL \$500,000. FIRE INSURANCE EXCLUSIVELY. Insurance against Loss of Damage by Fire either by Perpetual or Temporary Policies.

DIRECTORS: Charles Richardson, William B. Riswold, William M. Seyfert, John F. Smith, Nathan Hiles, George A. West, CHARLES RICHARDSON, President. WILLIAM L. BURNARD, Secretary.

CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, ETC. CLOTH HOUSE. JAMES & HUBER. No. 11 North SECOND Street, sign of the Golden Lamb, Are receiving a large and splendid assortment of new styles of FANCY CASSIMERES And standard makes of DRESKINS, CLOTHS and COATINGS. AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. STOVES, RANGES, ETC. BUZZY & HUNTERSON, MORNING GLORY Stove, Heater and Range Warehouses. Nos. 309 and 311 N. SECOND ST., Above Vine, Philadelphia.

THE AMERICAN STOVE AND HOLLOWWARE COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA, IRON FOUNDERS, (Successors to North, Chase & North, Sharpe & Thomson, and Edgar L. Thomson.) Manufacturers of STOVES, HEATERS, THOMSON'S LONDON KITCHEN RANGES, TINNED, ENAMELLED, AND TON HOLLOWWARE. FOUNDRY, Second and Mifflin Streets. OFFICE, 209 North Second Street. FRANKLIN LAWRENCE, Superintendent. EDWARD B. SMITH, Treasurer. JNO. EDGAR THOMSON, President. JAMES HOEY, General Manager.

INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA. Incorporated 1794. Charter Perpetual. CAPITAL \$500,000. ASSETS \$4,783,651. Losses paid since organization \$28,000,000. Receipts of Premiums, 1869 \$1,991,837.45 Interest from Investments, 1869 \$114,989.74 \$2,106,827.19 Losses paid, 1869 \$1,050,896.94

STATEMENT OF THE ASSETS. First Mortgages on City Property \$766,450 United States Government and other Loans \$8,192,946 Railroad, Bank and Canal Stocks \$5,708 Cash in Bank and Office \$247,620 Loans on collateral Security \$2,825 Notes Receivable, mostly Marine Premiums \$31,944 Accrued Interest \$30,872 Premiums in course of collection \$2,106,827 Unsettled Marine Premiums \$100,900 Real Estate, Office of Company, Philadelphia \$30,000 \$7,783,651

DIRECTORS: Francis H. Cope, Edward H. Trotter, Edward S. Clarke, T. Charlton Henry, Alfred D. Joseph, Louis C. Madeira, Charles W. Cushman, John M. Gracum, William Brooker, ALTHUR G. CLAFF, Vice-President. MATTHEW MARIS, Secretary. C. H. KERVEY, Assistant Secretary.

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